UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1993/58
30 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1993
Geneva, 28 June-30 July 1993
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

COORDINATION QUESTIONS

Promotion of press freedom in the world

Note by the Secretariat

In paragraph 18 of its resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992, the General Assembly decided on procedural grounds to refer to the Economic and Social Council, for its consideration, resolution 4.3 adopted on 6 November 1991 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 1/ and contained in the relevant note by the Secretary-General (A/SPC/46/3). The resolution, entitled "Promotion of press freedom in the world", is annexed to the present note.

---

* E/1993/100.

1/ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Twenty-seventh Session, vol I, Resolutions, sect. III.4.

Annex

PROMOTION OF PRESS FREEDOM IN THE WORLD

(26 C/Resolution 4.3)

(Original: English and French)

The General Conference,

Recalling 25 C/Resolution 104 which it adopted following examination of the draft Medium-Term Plan for 1990-1995 in regard to major programme area IV, "Communication in the service of humanity",

Noting with satisfaction the decisions taken at the 136th session of the Executive Board concerning this major programme area,

Welcoming the scope provided in this programme for activities aimed at encouraging press freedom, as well as the independence and pluralism of the private, public and other media in all regions,

Recognizing that a free, pluralistic and independent press is an essential component of any democratic society,

Considering that the Seminar on Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press (29 April-3 May 1991), organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations in Windhoek, Namibia, acted as a catalyst in the process of encouraging press freedom, independence and pluralism in Africa,

Congratulating the Director-General and the secretariat on this initiative,

Noting with satisfaction the cooperation that developed at that meeting between UNESCO and the professional media associations,

Noting with interest the Declaration adopted by participants at the Windhoek seminar which provides a reference for the development of independent and pluralist media in Africa,

Thanking the Director-General for his action aimed at providing a positive follow-up to the recommendations made at the seminar, especially those mentioned in the annex to the Windhoek Declaration,

Invites the Director-General:

(a) To extend to other regions of the world the action taken so far in Africa and Europe to encourage press freedom and to promote the independence and pluralism of the media;

(b) To commemmorate the anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration adopted on 3 May 1991;

(c) To transmit to the General Assembly of the United Nations the wish expressed by the States members of UNESCO to have 3 May declared "International Press Freedom Day";

(d) To examine with the Secretary-General of the United Nations ways and means of issuing a joint report on the progress of press freedom in the world to mark this day.